Bank funding of irrigation projects in Gujarat

*112. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for revising the exposure limits upto 40 per cent for a single borrower for bank funding of irrigation and water supply projects;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been considered; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat has requested for an upward revision of exposure limit for irrigation and water projects. This proposal was examined by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It was decided, however, to retain the existing exposure limit for commercial banks' norms of financing infrastructure projects at 15% and 40% (extendable by another 10% *i.e.* upto 50%) of their capital funds for individual and group borrowers respectively. However, commercial banks could approach RBI for exceeding the exposure limits and their proposals would be examined on merit.

Earnings of Metro Airports

*113. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to privatise four Metro Airports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these airports earn over Rs. 530 crores per year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the decision to privatise the airports?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Government of India in January, 2000 approved the